BOSTON UNIVERSITY PHOTONICS CENTER · CHENG GROUP

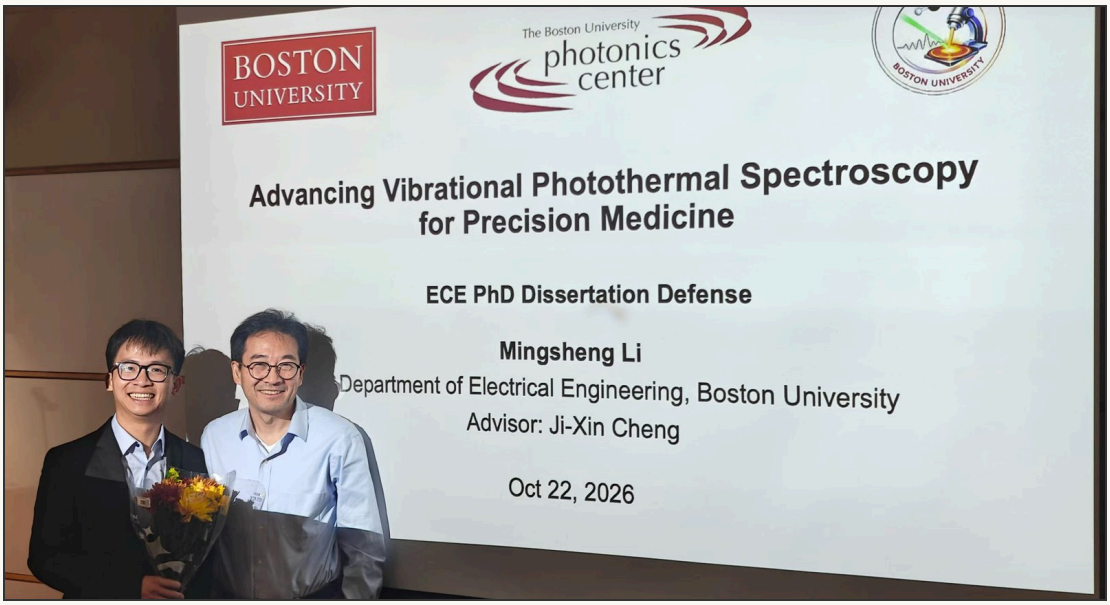
The Cheng Group Chronicle

OCTOBER 2026 GROUP NEWS ISSUE 1

PHD DEFENSE

Congrats, Dr. Mingsheng Li!

Mingsheng defended his PhD on October 22. Cheers to Dr. Li!



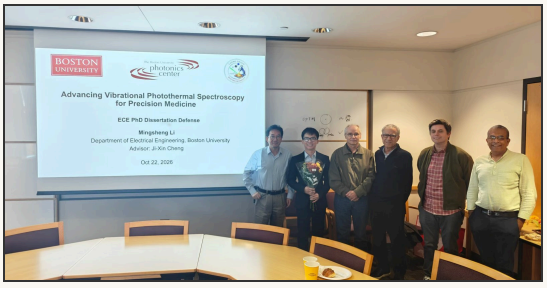
Mingsheng with his advisor, Dr. Ji-Xin Cheng, after the defense on Oct 22.

Mingsheng defended his dissertation, *"Advancing Vibrational Photothermal Spectroscopy for Precision Medicine,"* on October 22. He passed!!

Huge thanks to his committee: Dr. Ji-Xin Cheng (advisor), Dr. Jerome Mertz, Dr. Irving Bigio, Dr. Darren Roblyer and Dr. Siddharth Ramachandran. Thank you all!

After the defense we all crashed the lounge with flowers and champagne. Mingsheng even did the bottle pose (see photo).

So happy for you, Mingsheng. Cheers!



With the committee.



Party time after the defense!

THIS MONTH

1	PhD defense
5	manuscripts submitted
2	R01s: one funded, one submitted
3	fellowship applications
3	talks

COMING UP

NOV 18 · 12 PM

Lunch celebration for Dr. Cheng's Warren Professorship and Dr. Yang's Optica Fellow.

Fuller's BU Pub, 225 Bay State Rd (ground floor of the Castle)

DECEMBER

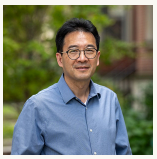
Annual symposium. More info soon!

PAPERS ACCEPTED

None yet, but five are out for review. Fingers crossed!



We made the acknowledgements slide!



HONORS

Dr. Cheng Named Warren Professor

Dr. Cheng was named Warren Professor on September 23. We're celebrating with a lunch on November 18 at 12 pm at Fuller's BU Pub, along with Dr. Yang's Optica Fellow, so save the date! Cheers to Dr. Cheng!

GRANTS

Grants

RECEIVED

NCI R01, year 6. "Lipid Unsaturation Drives Ovarian Cancer Progression." PIs: Daniela Matei and Ji-Xin Cheng. Cheers!

SUBMITTED · OCT 5

NIH R01 proposal. "Combating Antimicrobial Resistance by Fluorescence-detected Infrared Photothermal Microscopy." PI: Ji-Xin Cheng. Huge thanks to George for helping with the writing. Fingers crossed!

FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships

Dr. Nathaniel Hai submitted a revised K99 proposal to NIH/NCI. Fingers crossed, Nati!

Hailey Truong and **Ellen Wrightsman** submitted NSF Graduate Research Fellowship applications based on their rotation projects. Good luck, you two!

TALKS

Talks & Seminars

OCT 12

Dr. Cheng gave a seminar on chemical imaging at Johns Hopkins BME.

OCT 7

Qing gave a seminar on mid-infrared photothermal microscopy at UMass Dartmouth Chemistry. Nice job, Qing!

OCT 6

Dr. Cheng gave his Charles Mann Award plenary talk at SciX 2026 in Sparks, NV. So cool!

MANUSCRIPTS

5 Manuscripts Submitted! Fingers crossed for all of them

DATE	FIRST AUTHOR	TITLE	JOURNAL
Oct 23	Dingcheng Sun	Fingerprint stimulated Raman imaging of fumarate uncovers mitochondrial metabolic heterogeneity	*PNAS (revision)*
Oct 22	Qing Xia	Structural and compositional profiling of individual biomolecular assemblies by infrared absorbance-modulated evanescent scattering	*Nature Biotechnology (revision)*
Oct 21	Jianpeng Ao	Stimulated Raman and infrared photothermal (SRIP) microscopy	*Light: Science & Applications*
Oct 19	Guangrui Ding	Background2Background: a self-supervised background removal framework for high dimensional microscopy	*Nature Methods (Brief Comm.)*
Oct 1	Pintian Lyu	Single-biomolecule vibrational imaging in aqueous environments by stimulated Raman photothermal encoded scattering	*Nature Photonics (revision)*

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Got news for next month? Papers, cool new data, defenses, personal stuff, anything goes! Send it my way by the 25th through the Chronicle news submission form (forms.gle/aq81reR3DuQqhv2p7). Cheers!

GROUP LIFE

Cheng & Yang Fall BBQ

Fall BBQ with the Yang group on October 18! Great weather, way too much food, and some intense mahjong. Thanks to everyone who came and helped out. Cheers!



Cheng + Yang groups, all smiles



Steak time!



Grill crew



Snack table, demolished



Mahjong got intense!